

\$2.00

Vol. 5 No. 2 Summer 1991

A Publication of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Chapter Chatter

Please note if you are participating in the MMBA point series, you must fill out a green informational sheet at each event, whether or not you are a MMBA member. Please see Note 8 on page 6 for more information. ...

April 30, 1991

Dear Mr. Delridge:

For the second consecutive year your group has chosen to observe Earth Day by taking the lead to clean up some of the most beautiful area in this community.

I think it is important to let you know that we are very appreciative of the efforts of your group to clean up Paint Creek, Paint Creek Trailway and trails in Bald Mountain Recreation Area. It is absolutely delightful to be able to drive over the bridge on Kern Road and not see rusting appliances in the creek below. That trash had been there much too long.

I am sure I speak for officials of Orion Township, Oakland Township, and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission as well as citizens of this community when I say thank you for a superb job.

Sincerely,

William Stark, Park Manager
Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Chapter Chatter Continued:

The Southeastern Chapter of the Michigan Mountain biking Association, received this letter from William Stark, Park Manager of Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

Great Job Southeastern Chapter Members. Here's how you can contact the Southeastern Chapter Of the MMBA:

MMBA Southeastern Chapter
P.O. Box 274
Royal Oak, MI 48068

The Southeastern Chapter can be reached by calling:
(313) 372-1382

Officers of the Southeastern Chapter are:

Ed Porkryfky, President
18853 Ruth
Melvindale, MI 48122

Jeff Fooks, Vice President
10601 Corning
Oak Prk, MI 48237
(313) 399-4163

(continued on page 10)

DNR Trails Update . . .

Public informational meetings pertaining to the department's Recreation Trails Initiative have been conducted under the direction of Recreation Division Chief O. J. Scherschligt. The amount and extent of public interest and support in expanding opportunities for trail-related recreational trails has been expanding. Opportunities for trail-related recreational trails has been substantial and is positively encouraging. Citizen attendance at these four meetings have included individuals interested in all types of both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Bicycling enthusiasts...both "on-road" and "off-road" ...have stated their interest in working with representative of federal, state, and local governmental agencies toward enhancing "cycling" opportunities in Michigan.

Individuals are encouraged to become acquainted with individual land managers at DNR facilities, including state parks, recreation areas, state game areas, and state forests in determining and understanding land use rules for these areas. Individuals and the members of clubs and organization that are especially interested have provided valuable assistance to DNR field employees in the maintenance and establishment of trail corridors for bicycle use and other types of appropriate recreational activities.

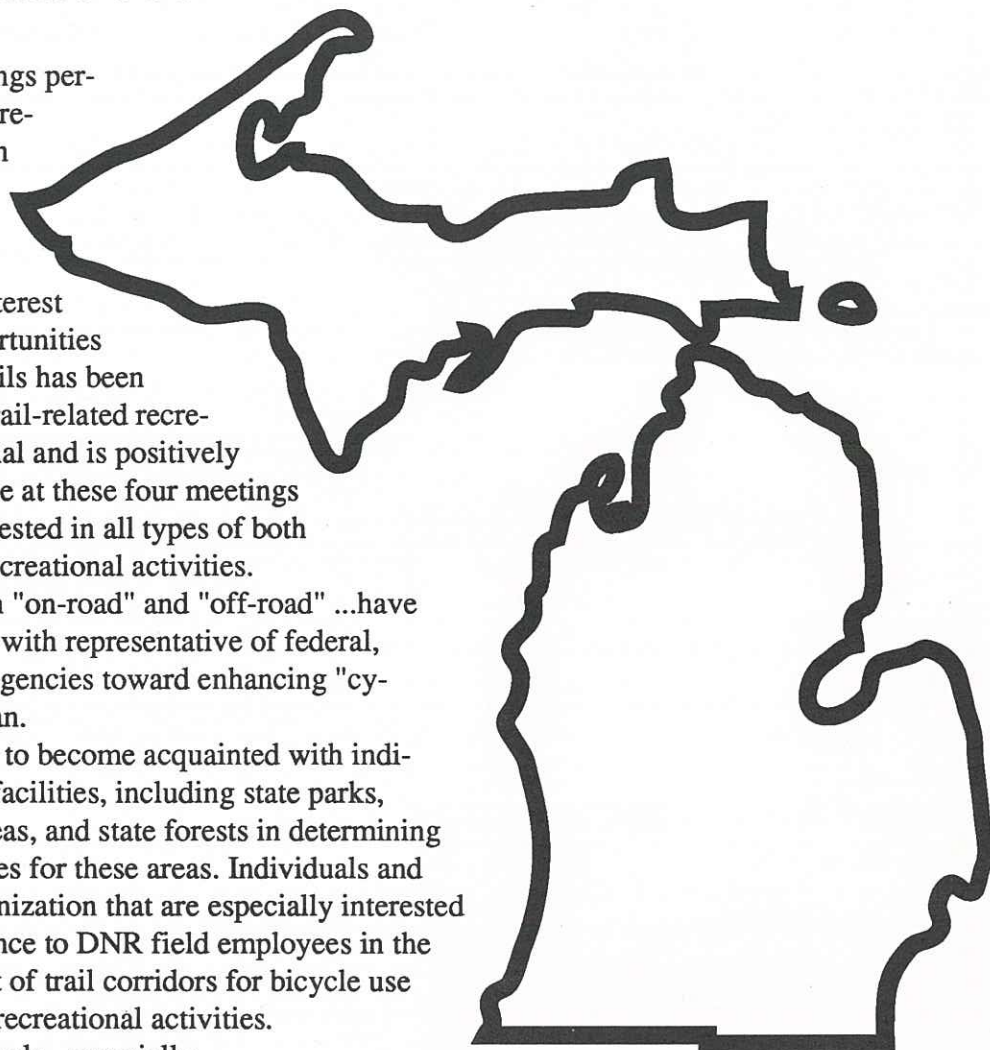
We wish to remind individuals...especially clubs...that organized or competitive events involving mountain bikes require a special use permit before the event is scheduled or publicized.

The summer recreation season is now at hand and opportunities for "fun in the out-of-doors" are bountiful in Michigan. All are encouraged to become active participants on these lands and facilities provided for these purposes.

Specific maps and brochures describing these opportunities are available at most DNR offices.

Have a wonderful season!

Jon Roethle
State Trails Coordinator
Recreation Services Branch
DNR, Recreation Division
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909



MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails
5. Don't disturb wildlife or live stock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

Notes For Your Fanny Pack:

By D. Abramowski

Note 1

Someone goofed, but we won't name names because the editor did it and if he knew that we named names he'd be really upset. The Gear Jam was not held on Memorial Day as you already know. I guess the guy's name we didn't name, was so excited about it he rushed it by a few months...

The Gear Jam

Rides

Hill Climb

Many other events

When: Monday September 2, 1991

Where: Pontiac Lakes Recreation Area

Contact: Tom Nell Bicycles Ltd.

(313) 682-5456

Sorry about the mix-up. . .

Note 2

Coming in the next issue of the BRB: What You Should Know About the Poto Fest. . .and where you can find it out.

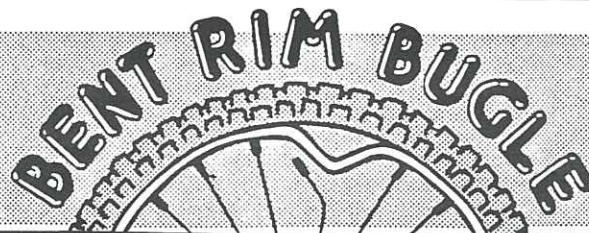
Note 3

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association Point Series Leaders Are: (as of 5-19-91)

Class	Name Of Leader	Points Total
Woman's Expert :	Lisa Leon	3.00
Woman's Sport:	Lorena Sheldon	3.00
Woman's Beginner:	Pam Savick	1.00
Men's Pro-Elite:	Ed Reid	2.675
Expert Up To 25:	Joe Fritsch	3.00
Expert 26 & over:	Brian Creeger	2.875
Sport Up to 17:	Bob Lawson	3.00
Sport 18-25:	Bill Dietlin	2.923
Sport 26-34:	Craig James	2.938
Sport 35-44:	Don Camp	2.423
Sport 45-54:	Gary Cook	2.350
Sport 55+:	Tom Nell	2.000
Beginner Up To 17:	Matt Pierce	1.500
Beginner 18-25:	Scott Lee	2.875
Beginner 26-34:	Lewis Tripp	2.867
Beginner 35-44:	Steve Montague	2.714
Beginner 45-54:	Jon Reiter	1.000
Beginner 55+:	No Participants	

Note 4

In the May Issue of the Mackinac, a Michigan Sierra Club Newsletter an article discussed the possible cuts facing (continued on page 4)



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(with help from)
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Music Provided By

Last Call Band
Pat Methany

Material Provided By

"Our Mother Earth"

Use them wisely and recycle.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.

Classified Ads

Michigan Cyclist Magazine is sponsoring a series of mountain bike camps for dudes and dudets from 10 to 15 years old. They will be held in three different parts of the state. Space is limited, register early - call (616) 454-0155.

Mountain Bike, a book by Dwain Abramowski. Published by Franklin Watts of New York. Everything children and adults need to know to get started mountain biking. 64 pages, full color. For your copy send 13.50 to P.O. Box 29, Belmont, MI 49306 or see your local bookstore (\$11.95) or local bicycle shops around the state.

(notes cont. from pg. 3) the DNR.

"...The governor's office, however, has flatly refused to propose any fees or increases which would be assessed of industry or developers? Ironically, the budget does propose an increase in camping fees for some state parks, and will allow for the collection of fees on a section of a non-motorized trail converted from a railroad right-of-way, thus impacting families and individuals." For a copy of the complete article, contact the BRB.

Note 5

In the April issue of, *Land Access Alert*, an IMBA publication, it was stated that the "Wilderness Society Embraces Mountain Bikers". The article went on to say, "...The Wilderness Society is one of the oldest and largest national environmental organizations..." and though it has membership of 400,000-plus, "unlike the Sierra Club, Audobon Society and National Wildlife Federation, it has no chapters and no volunteer structure. The Wilderness Society at the professional level has more full-time registered lobbyists than any other organization in Washington, D. C.the Wilderness Society is the only major environmental organization to devote serious staff time and effort to understanding the mountain bike phenomenon and to building positive relationships." In 1990 the Wilderness Society "reversed its prior position and started to advocate: appropriate, expanded access for mountain bikes on public lands (other than wilderness)". The IMBA article went on to say, "The open-mindedness of the Wilderness Society has been a delight. Many

other organizations, groups and land managers have tended toward a narrow, closed-minded view toward both mountain bikes and cyclists themselves. The Wilderness Society, however, is reaching out to mountain bikers, recognizing that [they] are legitimate members of the outdoor user family and that [they] , too, care about the environment. Finally, [we] are beginning to be embraced. It is a welcome relief. It is hoped that The Wilderness Society may become a real model for other environmental groups and organization concerning mountain biking."

For more information, contact The Wilderness Society, 9000 17th ST. NW Washington, D.C. 20006

Note 6

THE TEAM TO BEAT IN THE NINETIES - TREK AND THE MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF MICHIGAN

What the heck is Trek up to?



Trek + MMBA + BRB = Better trails for mountain bikers and all trail users.

Helping the MMBA in a big way - that's what. Trek is the only major corporate supporter of the MMBA. Trek has made it possible for local chapters to earn money to pay for phone calls, mailings, clean ups of trails and other important MMBA chapter activities. Trek has also helped produce the BRB, and provided shirts for the MMBA point series leaders to wear in the events if they want to. The local Trek representative, Dave Maurer, has been at virtually all the point series races, and has attended many general and local MMBA and Chapter meetings. Dave has pitched in at events and has passed out brochures on the efforts and activities of the MMBA to shops all across Michigan and even in surrounding states. On behalf of all members of the MMBA, I would like to thank Trek. While we often hear about all the "noble, big publicity", activities that "other" bike companies are doing it's nice to know that there is one out there that will actually roll up their sleeves in the Midwest, pitch in and help us pay the bills, and help clean the trails and take the time to come to meetings and activities. Thanks again Trek. The MMBA can do a lot more for all trail users with support like yours.

Note 7

Octacosanol what is it and who cares?

Check out the latest issue of BETTER NUTRITION, it states:

"Octacosanol was a cult item among athletes and body builders, but it was not a major part of nutritional medicine until Dr. Carlton (notes cont. on page 6)

The Good Guys and Gals on the Block (trail):

By Dwain Abramowski

The Sierra Club members are the good guys and gals on the block (trail). There is no way around it. The Sierra Club is beginning celebration plans for its one hundredth year birthday in 1992. In that time, the Sierra Club has been out there building trails, cleaning up our woods, planting trees, working on environmental issues that threaten all of us, working with various governmental agencies on the federal, state and local level to build parks, save various lands and environmental eco-systems. The Sierra Club has been working on educating trail users, and many times have played a major role in saving many of our natural wonders of the outdoors from being lost forever to indiscriminate development.

On last May 21st, I spoke with the Huron Valley Group - Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club. I was asked to give a general overview of mountain biking activities in Michigan as I saw it as president of the MMBA and Chairperson, for the DNR Trails Advisory Committee. I would be lying, if I said I wasn't nervous when I walked into the room where around seventy-five members of the Sierra Club were gathered for their monthly meeting. On the other hand, I wouldn't have wanted to miss the opportunity to talk with them.

A lot was shared in the two hour meeting. What I found most interesting is that we both have a lot in common, but basically we don't know each other. We are strangers, who share the same woods. I'll be the first to admit I'm not an expert

on the ways of the vast numbers of animals that live in our forest. However, the hikers I meet, whether or not they belong to the Sierra Club, remind me of raccoons in the forest. They are talented, intelligent, curious, deliberate, playful and forever roaming the woods.

On the other hand, as I bike through the forest, I feel much like the deer. Nimble, comfortable with motion, relying on instinct and always leery of what is going on around me - on the look out. I feel at home when the trees are moving because I am moving. Like the deer, I enjoy moving on paths I am familiar with, and I only change my routine when I have to, or I am forced to by outside influences.

The raccoon and the deer do not search each other out. They each have their own character, habits and destinies. Their paths may often cross and though they can live side by side and share the same forest home - by nature, they see, sense, and experience the same forest from two very different perspectives.

What I hoped to share with the group (the night I met with the Sierra Club) was a perspective of the forest as seen through mountain biking eyes. What I hoped would also happen is that I would learn and be able to share the perspective of the others who I share the forest with, especially the hiker.

I hope that I was successful the night I spoke to the Sierra Club. I know that the Sierra Club was successful in helping me understand them. And I now understand the hiker better, even though I've been one all my life.

I heard one word come up time and time again. That word was -

Solitude. It seemed to me the hikers I heard from that night wanted to find a certain peace in the woods that can only come after the commitment to go the distance, not just a few hundred yards down a trail, or around the bend and back, but to actually walk through the woods. They venture out away from where the casual walker might stop and turn around, beyond the remnants of trash thrown out by careless trail users who left signs of their passing, beyond sight of the campfires, pop-up trailers, motor homes and summertime ice-cream shops. They want to go where the flowers grow thick, and the birds and wildlife seek refuge from the encroachment of man. They want to be where I want to be.

As I listened to the Sierra Club members that night, I heard them asking me to help them save the woods - our backyards. I heard them asking me to help them teach all the trail users to respect the environment, on the trail, at home, at work and around the world. I heard them asking me to stay off certain trails that are very sensitive to impact by man. I found out that they are seeking more than a walk in the woods, but a renewal with their souls and the soul of nature itself. They are seeking to hear the woods talk to them, in the form of rustling leaves, birds, and animals. They want to be immersed in the colors of the forest, the lacy light pastels of spring, the bold strokes of summer greens against the hazy July sky, the visual explosion of fall and even the stark black thin lines of sleeping trees, blanketed in winter white.

Solitude is the hardest thing to find in the woods these days. The (continued on page 7)

(notes cont. from page 4)

Fredericks became aware that it was extremely valuable for brain function. He began to recommend octacosanol for patients who were comatose for a variety of reasons and was gratified and rather excited when a significant number of them improved. This led to our use of octacosanol in all conditions in which impaired brain function is critical: memory deficit, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, seizure disorder, multiple sclerosis, children's attention deficit and the list goes on..."

E. Cheraskin, MD. DMD, said in his book, *PSYCHODIETETICS*, "If you have been exercising regularly and eating properly and you still are having trouble reaching a high degree of physical fitness, the missing element may be octacosanol...After 20 years of research under controlled conditions with almost 1,000 people - middle-aged university faculty members, fraternity men, school boys, swimmers, wrestlers, track [runners] there is abundant evidence that octacosanol has beneficial effects on exercisers. It improves their stamina and endurance, reduces their stress and quickens reaction time..."

So where do you find this octacosanol? Timbuck Tu? The plains of Africa? Some tropical three hundred dollar plant from South America?

The article's revelation: "Professor Thomas Cureton of the University of Illinois conducted extensive research into the effects of wheat germ oil on stamina, reaction time and cardiovascular responses. Cureton concluded that octacosanol was the critical unknown factor in

wheat germ responsible for it's success." Wheat germ may be added to virtually any food and wheat germ oil may be taken as a liquid or a capsule. Check with your personal health professional to see if wheat germ is the missing key to your complete diet.

Note 8

If you are participating in the point series:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN AT THE POINT SERIES TABLE. AT EVERY RACE THIS SEASON THERE WILL BE VOLUNTEERS AT THE DESK WHO WILL BE MAKING SURE YOU ARE BEING COUNTED, THAT YOUR SCORE IS CORRECT, AND DOING WHAT EVER IT TAKES SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW HOW YOU ARE DOING THIS YEAR AT MMBA SERIES EVENTS.

RACE OFFICIALS WILL BE WEARING A SHIRT THAT SAYS, "MMBA RACE OFFICIAL" (SNAPPY WORDING, HEY?). THEY ARE GREEN IN COLOR. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR PROBLEMS JUST CONTACT THEM. GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR!

Note 9

Enduro Anyone?

Motocycles have been doing it



If you are in the point series, before you climb your next hill, see note 8. You'll be glad you did, have fun!

for years, so why not mountain bikes? Heres the proposal:

Utilizing an approximate 35 mile, closed loop course in Benzi County, consisiting mostly of singletrack trail designed specifically for mountain bikes, two riders start each minute and ride against the clock. No pre-riding of the course would guarantee the need for some orientering skills. Secret check points and not so secret water stations would ensure that participants safely ride the poper route. The lowest "elapsed" time wins overall, yet everyone who succesfully completes the course is considered a winner. The event may (continued on page 8)

(continued from page 5)

hikers know it, and you and I know it. When I think of the metro-area of Detroit I think about how little "forest" land is left un-paved, undeveloped and free from scars. I sensed the members who were sharing their thoughts with me thought about Detroit and our other developed areas in Michigan the same way. I am sure each of them had a story, as I do, about a wooded lot that they once roamed (biked) that is now another housing development, shopping mall, or industrial park.

I wonder where it will all end and I sensed they did too.

I must also tell you that I did hear a lot of examples shared by the Sierra Club members of bikers who were basically idiots out on the trail, with about as much sense as a flat tire. When it was my turn to answer to these examples of mindless inconsideration of man for his fellow man I couldn't think of much to say, other than if we knew how to keep drunk drivers off the roads we all share, then I might be able to mount a more successful campaign to keep jerks off the trail. Until we have that answer, all I could offer is education of mountain bikers.

And that is where I brought up all of you who are reading this. Each one of us who use the trail for mountain biking is responsible for education. We are teachers. Our example out on the trail is that by which we are judged and that which we must judge ourselves. Some of us are good examples. We share the exact same feelings the Sierra Club has in the woods (from our unique perspective). An example it has been said "is the school of mankind,

they will learn at no other..."

The infamous "other guys," are something else. Perhaps whining, complaining, lazy people who ride mountain bikes, but who have not yet earned the privilege to ride the trails.

How do you stack up?

Has there been a trail clean up sponsored by your local chapter of the MMBA that you have participated in? Or did you find some convenient excuse to get out of it (other than work, or did you even try and get the day off?) Have you helped put out your club's news letter, run fund-raisers for the treasury, show up at events (other than rides), phone the president of your chapter and ask if there is anything you could do to help?

How are you measuring up?

Do you know the riding code of ethics by heart? Do you follow the rules even when no one is looking? Do you pick up litter on the trail? Do you stay on the trail even if your bike will get muddy or do you try and go around it making the trail wider and wider and encroaching on more and more forest vegetation? Do you call ahead on weekends when you visit a popular trail to find out if another user group has scheduled an event or group activity that might mean you should find a different place to ride?

In the end, I assured the Sierra Club I spoke to on that night, that mountain bikers for the most part, are shining examples, teachers of our fellow bikers and friends of the trail. I told them that their solitude would be a priority on each of our lists and the trails of our forest would be better off as we each rolled up our sleeves and worked on them.

It's in your (my) hands now.

What will our 5 year birthday celebration look like? Will we have a 10 year celebration? A 15 year? Will the forest be better off because we were there? Will we share the woods as the raccoon and the deer, seeking our perspectives and each finding our own enlightenment using the tools of respect and responsibility? If we rely on "the other guy" will our forest trails be there tomorrow?

Will we be the bad boys (girls) of the bicycling world but be another group of good guys and gals on the block (trail)?

MMBA FUN DAY

ON
SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1991

WHERE: ADDISON
OAKS COUNTY PARK,
ROMEO, MICHIGAN
TIME: 8 AM TO 4PM

MMBA MEMBERS AND ALL
MOUNTAIN BIKERS ARE
INVITED TO ATTEND.

FUN-TIME EVENTS
FUN SCOT TIME TRIAL
TEAM RELAY RACE
(including barrel push,
tennis ball drop, etc.)
MOUNTAIN BIKING
POLO ACTIVITIES
PICNIC FACILITIES

(b. y. o. food and drink)

FAMILY TEAM EVENTS
KIDS X-COUNTRY RACE
OTHER EVENTS!

For information call:
TOM NELL BICYCLES
L.T.D.
(313) 682-5456

What Will Happen to Al Sabo?

By D. Abramowski

Many of you have not ever ridden the Al Sabo Preserve in Kalamazoo. Others of you have and know what a great place it is to ride, so close to a metro area like Kalamazoo. And a few others know how close we are to losing the ten miles or so of singletrack (if it's not gone already.)

Why?

I personally wrote an article on Al Sabo last year for *Mountain Bike Magazine's*, Midwest Terrain Column. In the article I was assured by a local Kalamazoo bike club that they were working with the local chapter of the Sierra Club in helping them maintain the trails on the first Saturday of the month, each and every month. It had the makings of a great terrain article, "Local bike club, works with local Sierra Club to help maintain trails...." Imagine my surprise when I got a phone call one night and the person on the other end told me the local Sierra Club had drafted a resolution with the support of other groups in the Kalamazoo area that would ban mountain bikes from the Al Sabo Preserve. In fact, the resolution was one step away from being reviewed by the environmental affairs committee of the Kalamazoo city Commission to be voted on by the commission. Whereby all indications, it would have met very little resistance if any at all because basically, they had not heard a single word of input, opinion and/or opposition to the resolution from local mountain bikers who use the Al Sabo on a regular basis.

Enter Bill Schimdt, who just happened to be riding on the trail

where upon he stopped for several hikers to pass and was told by the hikers that he was riding illegally - THE TRAIL WAS CLOSED. It so happens that the hikers jumped the gun, and Bill was concerned enough to work diligently on the behalf of all mountain bikers who use the park now or might use the park someday. Bill contacted me and I helped him organize and met with the environmental committee and spoke on behalf of all mountain bikers. I had to wonder, though, where the local bike club was, the one that said they were working with the local Sierra Club. I had to wonder also where all the Kalamazoo mountain bikers were when it comes to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association.

As it stands now the future of the Al Sabo is up in the air, but falling like a rock towards being closed. There are several meeting scheduled with the environmental concerns committee, Sierra Club, the MMBA and other interested parties. Bill Schimdt and several other area riders are hard at work, trying to reclaim lost ground, educate those in positions of decision making, educating users and working on behalf of all mountain bikers. The MMBA is committed to support those mountain bikers in Kalamazoo, members or not, to help make sure that decisions made on the preserve are based on facts and that both sides of the story get heard.

Meanwhile mountain bikers in the Kalamazoo area need to contact Bill Schimdt, for information on what they can do to help. On the other hand, by the time you read this it may be too late. But you still need to ask yourself are you riding on an "Al Sabo" type situation right now?

Will you be riding down a trail one sunny afternoon and stop for a group of hikers and be told, "By the way did you know that this trail is closed to mountain biking."

For more information contact: Bill Schmidt, 1228 Cork St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001 - (616) 688-4652. Oh, by the way the fine for riding Al Sabo if it is closed in the future is around \$500.00. Thanks, Bill, for taking the ball and running with it on behalf of all mountain bikers everywhere.

(Endro - contined from page 6) be tentatively scheduled for this fall with a big emphasis on having fun. Repeat fun! Interested? Write to the MMBA, P.O. Box 274, Detroit, MI 48231, to the attention of Tory Creech for offering comments or suggestions. If this is a thumbs up idea, more information will follow in the August/Fall issue of the Bent Rim Bugle.

**PLEASE
RENEW
YOUR
MICHIGAN
MOUNTAIN
BIKING
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY
IF
YOU
HAVE
NOT
DONE
SO
FOR
1991
THANK YOU!**


Dalmac Supports MMBA:

Many thanks go to the Dalmac Fund Committee for recently awarding the MMBA with generous grant designated to support the *Bent Rim Bugle*. Dalmac is the Dick Allen Lasing to Mackinac annual bicycling tour which raises funds to promote bicycling in Michigan. Upon review of a MMBA written request, the DALMAC fund committee agreed that the MMBA's endeavors and overall objectives are very much in line with DALMAC's goals. The grant received will supplement advertising revenues for the coming year to help insure continuing quality of the *Bent Rim Bugle*.

The MMBA welcomes the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with DALMAC towards the bright future of cycling in Michigan. For further information on the annual Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinac bicycle tour, MMBA members are encouraged to contact the Tri-County Bicycle Association, P.O. Box 13001 Lansing MI 48901.

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June 1, 1991

SIERRA CLUB
HURON VALLEY GROUP
MACKINAC CHAPTER

Dear Dwain,

Thanks so much for coming to speak to our group. That was a lively meeting wasn't it? But I think it is good for different groups to get together and discuss problems. We all must try to understand each other's perspectives. I do feel optimistic about our future trail usage. Your idea regarding receipt of our newsletter which has the schedule of our events is a good one. I shall see that your name is placed on the mailing list.

Thanks again.

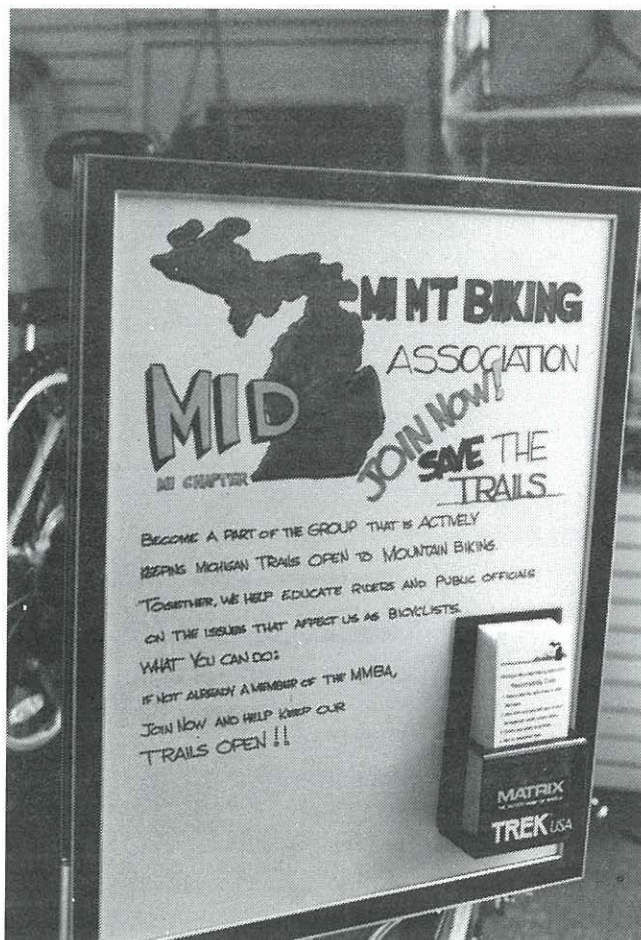
Sincerely,
Connie Hertz, Program/Publicity
Ann Arbor, MI

(Chapter Chatter cont. from front page)

Southeast Chapter meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at different locations. Locations are listed in the *Trail Blazer* newsletter or by calling (313) 372-1382. The Southeastern Chapter's ride calendar and trail maintenance schedule can be secured by calling or writing the chapter.

Mid-Michigan Chapter

The Mid-Michigan Chapter Display (pictured below) can be



seen at a Denny's Schwinn, in Lansing Michigan. The Mid-Michigan Chapter can help you get a

display for your chapter, just contact them.

News from the parks in the Mid-Michigan area:

Rose Lake - The maintenance day was very productive, Ron Zeeb, Scubbie and Buddie, Randy Backenship and Jolene Smith showed-up in the pouring rain to clear about 1 mile of trail. They accomplished a lot and got to test their rain gear in Michigan's extreme conditions.

Sleepy Hollow- Two work days were scheduled. Gail and Karen

Harkness said the clean-up on April 28 was slightly impossible since most of Sleepy Hollow was 6 inches under water.

Grand River Park/River Bend Natural Area- Our meeting with the board of directors went very well, and we developed a trail system at Grand River/River Bend. In May the Mid Michigan Chapter cleared and marked about five miles of the trail. The terrain is mostly smooth, with very few hills. On June 8 the trails opened to the public, with television coverage and all. The county is supplying maps, and are encouraging use of the trails. It is a great place to ride with the

whole family, and the terrain is such that everyone can have a good time.

For more information on these events or up-coming events and other important information about the Mid-Michigan area contact:

Joelene Smith

P.O. Box 4814

East Lansing, MI 48823

Chapter President:

Joelene Smith (517) 347-1114

Vice President:

Pat Dueke (517) 351-77240

Chapter Meeting Dates:

First Wednesday of Month at 7:30 PM. At Foster Community Center in Lansing.

Up-coming Events: LOTS contact chapter for current newsletter.

Mid-Michigan Chapter: As quoted by the chapter president, "...fun group of people hoping to get anyone with a mountain bike interested in riding!"

Western Michigan Chapter:

Western Michigan gets HOT new trail. See story on page 12.

For more information on up-coming events and other important information about the Western Michigan Chapter contact:

Western Michigan Chapter

P.O. Box 155

Macatawa, MI 49434

Chapter President: Ian Joyce (616) 394-5985

Vice President: Bob Lawson (616) 9484192

Meeting Dates are: Second Tuesday of the month, at various locations around the chapter area. Contact Ian Joyce for more information.

Pontiac Lakes Chapter

See feature article in the Spring issue of the *BRB*. For more (Chapter Chatter cont. page 11)

(Chapter Chatter cont. from page 10)
for information on the Pontiac Lakes
Chapter contact:

Pontiac Lake Chapter
2528 Elizabeth Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI 48328

President: Gary Moore
(313) 698-3093
Vice President: Craig James
(313) 698-9481

Contact Tom Nell Bicycles Ltd.
for meeting times and dates at (313)
682-5456.

Potawatomi Chapter
Dwain Walks Through Hot Coals
At Sierra Club Summit
Perspective by Meg Comeau

Is walking on hot coals in the job
description for MMBA President?
No, but to see Dwain Abramowski
up in front of the Huron Valley
Chapter of the Sierra Club, you
might have thought so. He had
everything but a hat and cane!

The Poto Chapter was invited to
give a talk on the environmental
impact of mountain bikes on Tues-
day, May 21, at U of M's Maithel
Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor.
We wanted our first contact with the
Sierra Club to be positive and so we
called on Dwain.

Dwain was charming and per-
sonable as he explained who the
MMBA is, and what we do. And
that our love of nature is what brings
us into contact with Sierra Club
Members on the trail.

Some people in the audience
tried to assign values to our differing
trail experiences, saying that the
mountain bike experience is some-
how less valuable because we travel
at a different rate of speed and see
the trail from a different vantage

point.

Dwain acknowledged these
sentiments, but kept stressing that
we not make value judgements. That
we show tolerance for each other, as
trail users. It became clear that some
naturalist will never be happy if they
see another human on the trail in
southeast lower Michigan in 1991.
That's not realistic. Multi-use trails
are here to stay and Dwain stressed
our continuing efforts at rider educa-
tion.

The discussion ran over and hour
long and towards the end a few
Sierra Club members began speak-
ing up on behalf of our sport and
described some positive meetings on
the trail. I was encouraged to hear
that we were invited back to con-
tinue the dialogue on an annual or
semi-annual basis. Also, several
Sierra Club members want to sched-
ule joint rides, and we're now going
to exchange newsletters.

Thanks to the Sierra Club for
giving us a chance. We could both
benefit by finding some common
ground.

Other important facts about the
Poto chapter:

Mailing Address:
219 N. First St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

President: Brian Delaney
(313) 761-4421

Vice President: Meg Comeau
(313) 475-9753

Chapter Meeting Dates are the
3rd Wednesday of the month at
7:30 PM.

September through May
Forsythe School
Newport Rd, Ann Arbor, MI
June through August
Conference Room

Jim Bradley Pontiac
3500 Jackson Rd
Ann Arbor, MI

On-going Rides:

Sun 10 AM Poto Ride - Meet at
Silver Lake parking lot.

Wednesdays, PM - Loop of
pain, meet at Cycle Cellar (313)
769-1115.

Friday, 7:30 - Fun Ride, meet
at Cycle Cellar (313) 475-9753
(Meg)

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday June 30, 1:30 PM
Jordan River Valley Romp (40
miles east of Traverse City. The day
after the Sleeping Bear World Cup
Mt. Bike Race)

There are several trails running
through the Jordan River Valley, the
most spectacular being around
Deadman's Hill. The Panoramic
view from the top is amazing, but
the fun part is the almost vertical
descent to the bottom. Once in the
valley there are 2 mile and 19 mile
loops. The singletrack is very
technical (twisty, roots, bunny
hopping) and the more open areas
are full of boardwalks and bridges
around lakes, streams and ponds.
Fun, fun, fun! We hope to repeat
this ride as a camping trip in the fall.
Meet at Pinney Bridge Campground
in Jordan Valley. Call Brain (313)
761-4421 for more information. All
Local Chapters invited!

Summary of Activities:

Even though we have a Domi-
nating group of racers on the circuit
this season, we consider ourselves
primarily a land access organization.
As such, our main activities are trail
maintenance and trashouts. Our
meeting are filled with discussions
of how we should get involved at
(Chapter Chatter cont. page 12)

city, county and state levels.

Our ride calendar includes special rides for novices, women and hardcores.

Western Michigan Chapter of the MMBA puts in HOT new trail at Yankee Springs. . .

The working relationship between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the MMBA can be described as excellent and productive. That does not necessarily mean that there are not any headaches along the way. One of the biggest headaches for the Western Chapter (and the DNR for that matter) has been getting official designation of mountain biking areas on the west side of the state.

Until recently, mountain bikers from the fairly large metropolitan areas of Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids were without designated* state trails (lands) for mountain biking. The problem was not that there wasn't state trails (lands) available, in many cases it was in getting the trails marked and or built. One of the main goals for 1991 of the DNR and the Western Chapter of the MMBA was getting a mountain biking trail system marked and laid out in Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Yankee Springs Recreation Area is a large park that lies half-way between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The park has several camping areas both modern and primitive, swimming beaches, fishing, power-boating, boardsailing beaches, hiking, and equestrian trails systems, nature centers, picnic areas and as of last year was to include a mountain biking system in the Deep Lake Area, of the park.

Late last spring the Western Michigan Chapter of the MMBA under the direction of Yankee Springs personnel started work on the Deep Lake Trail system by putting a connecting trail in from an access road near the Deep Lake Campgrounds that will eventually connect with Deep Lake hiking / mountain biking trail (already present). This will give mountain bikers about a seven mile loop of mostly singletrack riding near the two large population centers of Western Michigan. The trail was laid out by two Western Michigan mountain bikers and MMBA members, both active in racing and trials riding.

How did the trail turn out?

To coin part of a phrase, "bitchin". Unofficially, the trail is known to those 25 Western Michigan MMBA members who spent a long Saturday clearing, marking and building the trail as the Cramer/Lawson trail. Mark Cramer, is a factory rider for the Slingshot Team and Bob Lawson is a nationally

known trials rider and Slingshot Team rider. Both Cramer and Lawson laid out and did the temporary marking of the trail in cooperation with the DNR. The 3 mile connector between the access roads is through some very hilly, wooded and twisting terrain. On the whole, this is the type of commitment found by the DNR in providing areas for biking within the state park and forest system(s). As for the MMBA and its five chapters statewide, Yankee Springs is another success. Challenges still facing the MMBA and the DNR are signing the trails, providing accurate maps and working on rider education both at Yankee Springs, other recreation areas, state parks, game areas, and state forests throughout the state.

*Mountain biking takes place on a variety of local public lands but determinations on these lands for mountain bike use are not conclusive at the time of this writing.



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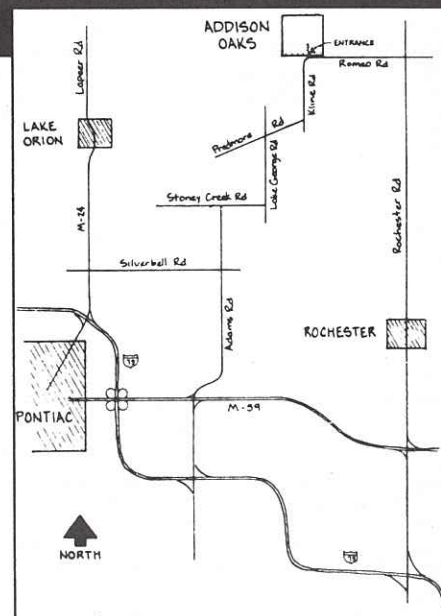
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MICHIGAN FAT TIRE BIATHLON ■ SUNDAY, JULY 15, 1990

RACE: June 16 ☐ July 14 ☐ August 25 ☐ Series ☐

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/MAILING CODE _____

DAY PHONE () _____ EVE PHONE () _____ BIRTHDATE ____/____/____

AGE ON JULY 15, 1990 _____

SEX: M ☐ F ☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ RELAY TEAM ☐ TEAM CATEGORY: Male ☐ Female ☐ Mixed ☐

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Executive
Office

John Engler
Governor

Executive Declaration

Governor John Engler
Hereby issues this Executive Declaration
in Observance of

June 29, 1991

as

MOUNTAIN BIKE DAY

WHEREAS, mountain bike riding is rapidly growing in popularity across the U.S. and in Michigan; and

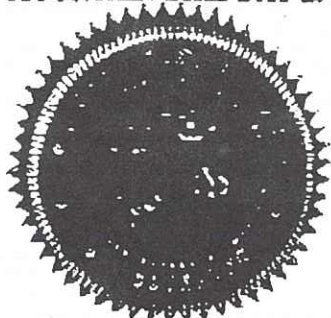
WHEREAS, the National Off-Road Bicycle Association has worked to promote the sport of mountain bike racing and the recreation of mountain bike riding across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, on June 29 and 30, 1991, Traverse City, Michigan, will be the site of one of only eight World Cup Series races in the world for the sport of mountain bike racing; and

WHEREAS, top mountain bike racing professionals and amateurs from around the globe will come to the Grand Traverse area for the Grundig 1991 Sleeping Bear World Cup Mountain Race; and

WHEREAS, Traverse City will be the only city in the Midwest of the U.S. to host a World Cup mountain bike race;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Engler, Governor of the State of Michigan do hereby declare June 29, 1991, as MOUNTAIN BIKE DAY in Michigan.



Given under my hand on this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-one and of the Commonwealth one hundred fifty-five.

John Engler
Governor

MMBA SHOP AND MANUFACTURE MEMBERS

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Bicycle Institute Of America
1818 R. Street NW
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Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Chicago Drive Schwinn
Western Chapter
4300 Chicago Drive
Grandville, MI 49412

Kentwood Schwinn
Western Chapter
2830 East Paris SE
Kentwood MI 49418

Campus Bike and Toy Center
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2205 Dexter
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Down Wind Sports, Inc.
541 North Third Street
Marquette, MI 49855
(Also in Houghton MI)

FreeWheeler Bike Shop
Western Chapter
915 Leonard St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness
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564 S. Main
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Okemos, MI 48864

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Holland, MI 49423

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Ypsilanti, MI 48179

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- An opportunity for you to have a say
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biking in Michigan

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** Michigan Mountain Biking Association (M.M.B.A) is a Non-Profit Organization currently seeking Tax Exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions may be Tax Exempt to the extent permitted by law pending IRS determination expected in 1990.*

Michigan Mountain Biking Association

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